

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 11, 2003 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 15, 24, 36, and 46 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 14 and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 1-13, 15-17, and 19-47 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 24 for being of improper dependent form. Applicants have amended claim 24 to correct a typographical error. (An amendment to provide further clarification has also been incorporated.) Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Interview Summary

Applicants' below signed representative conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Harris and Examiner Cuomo on January 30, 2004. The interview was directed toward the applicability of the references cited in the previous Office Action, including the Downer reference, and how the claims distinguished the prior art.

The Examiners agreed that Downer failed to disclose a stool base that is elongated from a back end to a front end along a longitudinal axis, or a base including a convex bottom surface defining an upwardly extending nose at the front of the base. The Examiners further agreed that if the method claims (claims 15-17, 36-38, 46, and 47) were to be amended to incorporate limitations relating to the elongated nature of the base, the rejections raised in the previous Office Action would be overcome.

The Examiners are thanked for their time in discussing this matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 10, 23, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 34, 39, 40, 41, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Downer (U.S. Patent 5,112,203). The Examiner also made various rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claims 6, 8, 9, 11-13,

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15-17, 19-22, 28, 31-33, 35-38, 42, 43, and 45-47. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have amended claims 15, 36, and 46 in the manner agreed upon in the telephone interview of January 30, 2004. In light of the amendments, and the above comments of the Interview Summary, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-13, 15-17, 19-23, 25-43, and 45-47 are in immediate condition for allowance.

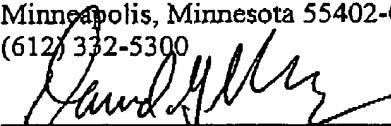
SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-13, 15-17, and 19-47) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,



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